

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed 05/29/2003 has been carefully reviewed. Reconsideration of this application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested. The claims presented for examination are: claims 1-36.

37 CFR 1.75 Objection

In numbered paragraph 1 of the Office Action mailed 05/29/2003 the Examiner stated, "Applicant is advised that should claim 4 be found allowable, claim 31 will be objected to under 37 CFR as being a substantial duplicate thereof." Applicants have amended claim 31 so that amended claim 31 is a method claim depending from independent method claim 28.

Applicants point out that claim 4 is an apparatus claims, whereas amended claim 31 is a method claim. Applicant submits that the apparatus claim 4 and method claim 31 are not duplicates and are not so close in content that they both cover the same thing. Applicants respectfully submit that the 37 CFR 1.75 objection in numbered paragraph 1 of the Office Action mailed 05/27/2003 has been overcome.

35 USC 112 Rejection

In numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action mailed 05/29/2003 claims 28-36 were rejected under 35USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated: "It is not clear to what extracted features are intended to be 'relevant.'"

Applicants have amended the claims to replace the word "relevant" with the phrase "at lease one of said features." Applicants respectfully submit that the

35 USC 112 rejection in numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action mailed 05/29/2003 has been overcome.

35 USC 103 Rejection

In numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action mailed 05/29/2003 claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-26, and 28-35 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Busche et al reference in light of the Agrawal reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-26, and 28-35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The cited references do not show the claimed combination. There is no suggestion in the references to form a proper combination. The cited references do not provide a teaching of the claimed combination. Applicants point out that the claims now presented for examination include structure and steps that are not shown in either the primary Busche et al reference or the secondary Agrawal reference.

The primary Busche et al reference shows a GPS subsystem 400 that provides a precise location of a collection point of a physical sample/instrument reading within a region. Geographic Information Subsystem (GIS) 402 uses the positioning information from the GPS subsystem to correlate the positions of the collection points within a region as stored within collection point location database 404. Instrument reading database 408 contains data values generated by field instruments that measure a particular condition at a collection point within a region. Data mining subsystem 410 uses collection point location database 404, physical sample database 406, and instrument reading database 408 to discover relationships between the collected physical samples and the collected instrument data. Spatial analysis subsystem 412 uses collection point location database 404, physical sample database 406, and instrument reading database 408 to process, plot, and display spatial information.

The primary Busche et al reference does not show much of the structure and steps of Applicants' invention as defined by claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-26, and 28-35. For example some of the claimed structure and steps not found in the Busche et al reference include the following: "decision tree" and "object oriented linking" and "object oriented pattern recognition algorithms" and "object oriented module to sort said data" and "object oriented module to determine the best manner to split said data" and "object oriented module to split said data" and "a OC1 algorithm" and "a CART-LC algorithm" and an evolutionary algorithm" and "Gini index" and "criterion is the information gain" and "criterion is the information ratio" and "criterion is the twoing rule."

The secondary reference, Agrawal, also fails to show the missing structure and steps. Since both of the references fail to show the missing structure and steps, there can be no combination of the references that would produce Applicants' invention defined by claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-26, and 28-35. Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 USC 103 rejection in numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action mailed 05/29/2003 has been overcome.

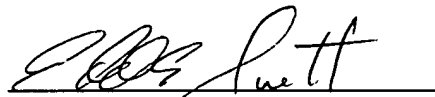
Objection To Claims 9, 18, and 27

In numbered paragraph 4 of the Office Action mailed 05/29/2003 claims 9, 18, and 27 were object to as depending from a rejected claim. Claims 9, 18, and 27 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability.

SUMMARY

The undersigned respectfully submits that, in view of the foregoing amendments and the foregoing remarks, the rejections of the claims raised in the Office Action dated 05/29/2003 have been fully addressed and overcome, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered, that the claims be allowed, and that this case be passed to issue. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (925) 424-6897.

Respectfully submitted,



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